IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

(a) generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses utilizing a scanning interface;

(b) sending the request to scan data to a plurality of scanning engines utilizing an engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning interface and the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus;

(c) receiving the events utilizing an event processor module coupled to the scanning engines and the engine interface application control module for processing the events; and

(d) transmitting the processed events to the engine interface application control module for being monitored by the scanning interface;

wherein the engine interface application control module translates the requests and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the requests and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the engine interface application control module and the event processor module reside on a gateway.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the scanning interface automatically generates the request in response to the receipt of data at the gateway.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the scanning interface includes a graphical user interface for allowing a user to manually generate the request.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the event processor module translates the events from each of the scanning engines into a single format.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the translated events are transmitted to the scanning interface for outputting the event.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the scanning engines are incompatible scanning engines.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

(a) computer code for generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses utilizing a scanning interface;

(b) computer code for sending the request to scan data to a plurality of scanning engines utilizing an engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning interface and the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus;

(c) computer code for receiving the events utilizing an event processor module coupled to the scanning engines and the engine interface application control module for processing the events; and

(d) computer code for transmitting the processed events to the engine interface application control module for being monitored by the scanning interface;

wherein the engine interface application control module translates the requests and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the requests and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

11. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the engine interface application control module and the event processor module reside on a gateway.

12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the scanning interface automatically generates the request in response to the receipt of data at the gateway.

13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the scanning interface includes a graphical user interface for allowing a user to manually generate the request.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the event processor module translates the events from each of the scanning engines into a single format.

16. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the translated events are transmitted to the scanning interface for outputting the event.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the scanning engines are incompatible scanning engines.

19. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the events include the identification of at least one of unwanted content, viruses and malicious code.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

(a) a scanning interface for generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses;

(b) an engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning interface and a plurality of scanning engines for sending the request to scan data to the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus; and

(c) an event processor module coupled to the scanning engines and the engine interface application control module for receiving the events and processing the events;

~~(d)~~ wherein the processed events are outputted by the scanning interface;

wherein the engine interface application control module translates the requests and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the requests and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

(a) means for generating a request for data to be scanned for viruses;

(b) means for sending the request to scan data to the scanning engines, the requests being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus; and

(c) means for receiving the events and processing the events;

wherein the requests and events are translated for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the requests and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning data utilizing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

(a) receiving data at a gateway;

(b) generating a request for the data to be scanned for viruses in response to the receipt of data at the gateway utilizing a scanning interface;

(c) translating the request utilizing an engine interface application control module coupled between the scanning interface and a plurality of scanning engines;

(d) sending the translated request to the scanning engines utilizing the engine interface application control module, the request being adapted for prompting the scanning engines to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus;

(e) receiving the events utilizing an event processor module coupled to the scanning engines and the engine interface application control module;

(f) checking an integrity of the events received utilizing the event processor module;

(g) translating the events into a common format utilizing the event processor module if the events pass the integrity check;

(h) transmitting the translated events to the engine interface application control module; and

(i) outputting the translated events utilizing the scanning interface;

wherein the engine interface application control module translates the requests and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the requests and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning data utilizing a system capable of interfacing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

identifying a request from a user for data to be scanned for viruses utilizing an interface;

translating the request to be utilized by at least one of a plurality of different scanning engines;

sending the translated request to the at least one of the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the at least one scanning engine to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus;

receiving the events from the at least one scanning engine;

translating the events into a common format; and

outputting the translated events utilizing the interface;

wherein the interface translates the request and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the request and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for scanning data utilizing a system capable of interfacing multiple scanning engines, comprising:

computer code for identifying a request from a user for data to be scanned for viruses utilizing an interface;

computer code for translating the request to be utilized by at least one of a plurality of different scanning engines;

computer code for sending the translated request to the at least one of the scanning engines, the request being adapted for prompting the at least one scanning engine to scan the data and respond with events upon locating a virus;

computer code for receiving the events from the at least one scanning engine;

computer code for translating the events into a common format; and

computer code for outputting the translated events utilizing the interface;

wherein the interface translates the request and events for each of the scanning engines;

wherein the scanning engines are unique proprietary scanning engines each associated with a different vendor;

wherein the request and events for each of the scanning engines are in a format different from formats of the other scanning engines.

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the translation involves a table translation.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the translation involves an algorithmic data interpolation.

27. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein different proprietary scanning engines are combined into a single product.